

WATER TUPELO

Nyssa aquatica

Located in inundated swamps in coastal Virginia and south. Found in pure stands or mixed with cypress and alders. Also known as Cotton, Black or Sour Gum, Swamp Tupelo and Swamp Hornbeam.

A large tree reaching a height of 30 m and a diameter of 1.2 m. Leaves are oval, without teeth or with a few large teeth near the midpoint; pale and hairy beneath; 12 to 18 cm long. The flowers are greenish and bloom in April and May. The fruit is reddish-purple and plum-like when ripe; 2.5 cm long.

The fruit may be eaten by wood duck, game and song birds, bear, fox, racoon, and squirrel; deer may browse the twigs and foliage.





Notes